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RHEFAAA/DIA DAH WASHDC

S E C R E T SECTION 01 OF 02 KUWAIT 000534

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SUBJECT: KUWAIT COUNTERTERRORISM WORKING GROUP: GOK
RECEPTIVE TO U.S. TRAINING AND EXPERTISE

REF: A. KUWAIT 490 -- NEW KUWAITI MINISTERS PLEDGE TO

FIGHT TERROR

- [1](#)B. KUWAIT 464 -- SECURITY BUREAU CHIEF SAYS KUWAIT
TO BE EXAMPLE OF ISLAMIC MODERATION
- [1](#)C. KUWAIT 260 -- FAILAKA ATTACK SENTENCES INCREASED
ON APPEAL
- [1](#)D. KUWAIT 88 -- CENTRAL BANK DEP GOVERNOR TALKS
TERROR FINANCE
- [1](#)E. 05 KUWAIT 5283 -- KUWAIT HOSTS INTL CONF ON ROLE
OF EDUCATION IN COMBATING TERRORISM
- [1](#)F. 05 KUWAIT 5270 -- PENINSULA LIONS VERDICT IN
- [1](#)G. 05 KUWAIT 4884 -- KUWAITI AUTHORITIES CRACK DOWN
ON "DOOR-TO-DOOR" JIHAD
- [1](#)H. 05 KUWAIT 4102 -- KUWAIT SIGNS INTERNATIONAL
CONVENTION SUPPRESSING OF NUCLEAR
TERRORISM
- [1](#)I. 05 KUWAIT 3835 -- KUWAIT COUNTERTERRORISM
WORKING GROUP

Classified By: Ambassador Richard LeBaron for reasons 1.4(b) and (d).

[1](#)1. (S/NF) Summary: The Ambassador convened on February 8 Post's Counterterrorism Working Group to assess Kuwaiti progress in combating terrorism and curbing extremism. ECON, RSO, and OMC-K all reported positive Kuwaiti participation in training courses and conferences ranging from VIP protection to customs work. Post will make it a priority to increase Kuwaiti participation in available courses. PAS noted GOK support for International Visitor Programs for imams, an initiative it will seek to expand. POL reported that members of two groups involved in terror activities were given steep fines and harsh prison sentences, breaking the long-standing tradition of extracting promises of good behavior. The GOK, however, still believes that infiltrating terror groups and co-opting its members were effective CT tools. End summary.

Helping Kuwait Keep a Strong CT Focus

[1](#)2. (S/NF) The Ambassador chaired the February meeting of Post's Counterterrorism Working Group (CWG). Along with visiting officers from the Office of the Coordinator for Counterterrorism (S/CT) and the DCM, in attendance were section chiefs and representatives from CONS, ECON, DATT, RSO, OMC-K, PAS, POL, and SIMO. The Ambassador reviewed for the group with February 8 meeting his National Security Bureau President Shaykh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Sabah and the message conveyed that the GOK must maintain a strong CT focus and should increase efforts to keep the U.S. and other allies informed of its CT efforts (ref B). At the Ambassador's request, S/CT Deputy Coordinator Feierstein provided an

overview of the proposed March 7-8 Iraq and neighbors CT conference, explaining the that goal was to identify the common CT threats and develop an approach to minimize them.

13. (S/NF) SIMO Chief informed the group that Kuwait State Security (KSS) and Kuwait Military Intelligence (KMI) have maintained a focus on CT targets and extremists. The aggressive CT approach used in January 2005 has waned however, and the GOK continues to believe that the use of sources within extremist communities and co-option are successful CT techniques. He said he continued to engage his counterparts on the need for continued vigilance and strengthened laws, including a legal framework that would permit longer pre-trial detention periods to allow for more in-depth investigations.

Progress on Monitoring Charities; Small Steps on Legal Reform

14. (C) EconOff reported that a trial program to regulate charitable contributions during Ramadan appears to have been successful. Nevertheless, the GOK has not addressed how to monitor donated funds once they have left Kuwait, instead trusting that recipient country governments will ensure that funds are not used for unlawful purposes. He further noted that the GOK continued to work on a revised terror finance law and that the Embassy has reminded the GOK of the U.S. offer of a technical review of the law. He informed the group of the success of a Customs Advisor Team three-day training seminar, reported the GOK hosted a MENA-FATF conference, and said the Embassy would press the GOK for a decision on previously offered OPDAT and Financial Intelligence Unit training.

Jail Time and Steep Fines for Convicted Terrorists

KUWAIT 00000534 002 OF 002

15. (SBU) PolChief reviewed the recent convictions of the 37 members of the Peninsula Lions terror cell and the 12 individuals involved in the 2002 shooting of U.S. Marines on Failaka island, noting that the sentences handed down -- from capital punishment to heavy fines -- were much harsher than usual (refs C and F). She also reported that the U.S. had positively responded to the GOK request for information on the crimes of the five detainees returned to GOK custody in November 2005. The GOK hoped to use the information in building its cases. She further noted that the death of the Amir, succession issues, and the formation of a new Cabinet had delayed parliamentary action on the Convention for the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism and a law to establish a military tribunal (ref H).

Training and Visitor Programs Successful CT Tools

16. (SBU) DRSO said the GOK has responded well to a series of ATA courses, including VIP protection, senior crisis management, and major case management. Post will strive to increase the number of courses offered and the number of Kuwaitis who participate. He noted a good information-sharing relationship, but commented that there were delays in the GOK response if a Kuwaiti citizen was involved.

17. (U) PA Chief informed the group that 3 imams had participated in an International Visitor Program on religious tolerance and were enthusiastic about their interactions with various American religious communities. The initiative had the support of the Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs and the Embassy would seek to expand the program during the year. She also said her section had used digital video conferences and the Fulbright program to encourage linkages and promote a dialog on curbing extremism. PA was also assisting the GOK in establishing partnerships with some of the Homeland

Security Centers established at U.S. universities.

18. (C) OMC-K reported that following the completion of Kuwait's Strategic Review, the GOK requested assistance in developing a CT component for its land forces. OMC-K anticipates that the main components of the military plans will be in place by June 2006. A MOD CT plan can then be developed in support of the new national military strategy and related plans. In addition, OMC-K is assisting the GOK in standing up a joint intelligence center and is working with Kuwait's J2 on training missions. On training, Kuwait will participate in a civilian affairs training course as well as in two analyst exchange training programs. The DATT added that DIA hoped to provide training to strengthen Kuwait's overt HUMINT capabilities. OMC-K noted increased GOK cooperation with Kuwaiti think tanks on some CT issues.

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LeBaron